

HOUSE RESOLUTION 23

By Brooks K

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. William Robert Snell of Cleveland.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Dr. William Robert Snell; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Snell was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed historian and educator, Dr. William Snell served with acumen and alacrity as the Professor of History at Lee University from 1970 to 1999, in which position he earned the respect of his colleagues and his students alike for the exemplary quality of his work and for which he received appropriate recognition as Professor Emeritus of History in 1999; and

WHEREAS, a beloved son of the South, William Robert Snell was born in Birmingham, Alabama, on October 16, 1930, as the youngest of ten children; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of both Howard College and Southern Seminary Dr. Snell earned his Master of Arts degree from Samford University, where he also served on the faculty, and obtained his doctorate in U.S. History from the University of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, an exceptional scholar and popular among the students, Dr. Snell shared his love of American history, and particularly the history of East Tennessee and the South, with thousands of students over his thirty-year career at Lee University, received the Lee University Excellence in Teaching Award in 1979 and the Lee University Excellence in Scholarship Award in 1987; and

WHEREAS, a specialist in Colonial American History, Dr. William Snell authored several books, including *Historic Investigations of the Bear Rive Divide and Segment of the Oregon*

Trail, and also wrote numerous books, articles, and chapters on the history of Cleveland and Bradley County; and

WHEREAS, bringing the history of the region to life for younger generations, Dr. Snell is the author of *Cleveland the Beautiful*, *Bradley County Tennessee Post Offices*, and *Cleveland: Bradley County Historical Society* and published sections in several books, including *The History of Bradley County*; and

WHEREAS, a frequent contributor to the *Cleveland Daily Banner*, Dr. Snell wrote the fascinating column "Snell's Pace," in which he highlighted the beginnings of the Cleveland community through the 1800s and early 1900s, and served as the editor of "Myra Inman Diary," which appeared in the paper from 1984-1988; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Robert Snell was a distinguished member of the Alabama Historical Association, the Tennessee Historical Society, and the Bradley County Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, a recognized community leader on behalf of his efforts to preserve the history of Cleveland and Bradley County and his role as a key researcher in the creation of the regional museum at Five Points, Dr. Snell served as the official historian for the City of Cleveland since 1982, and in 1991 was named Bradley County Historian and inducted as a member of the Bradley County Archives Committee; he also served as a trustee at the museum center until 2001; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Snell has his superb leadership skills to numerous civic endeavors and was an important figure in the advancement of many worthy organizations including serving as Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 10; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Snell's many contributions to the citizens of his adopted hometown was appropriately celebrated in 2004 when Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland declared Monday, March 29, as "William Snell Day" in the community; and

WHEREAS, an ordained minister, William Robert Snell was an active and devout member of the First Baptist Church in Cleveland, which he served faithfully for many years as a deacon and Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Robert Snell was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Snell is survived by his beloved wife of forty-three years, Janet W. Snell; son, Stephen Michael Snell, and his wife, Linda Farah Snell; sons, Jeffrey Alan Snell, and his wife, Gabrielle Cline Snell, William Robert Snell, Jr., and Mark Eugene Snell; grandsons, David Michael and Andrew William Snell; sister, Eleanor Robbins;; special friends, Jeremiah, Faith, and Arianna Rathe; and several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, William Robert Snell leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Dr. William Robert Snell, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Snell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.